

national educational goals and had to successfully complete a rigorous application process. Blue Ribbon Schools must offer instructional programs that meet the highest academic standards, have supportive and learning-centered school environments, and demonstrate student outcome results that are significantly above average.

This is a great achievement for the students, parents, teachers and staff. The hard work of the teaching and administrative staff at St. Columbkille Parish School, combined with the outstanding involvement of parents, has created an excellent climate for learning. The entire St. Columbkille Parish School community should be very proud of this national recognition. Its academic programs and environment will serve as a model for schools across the country.

My fellow colleagues, please join me in congratulating the students, teachers and administration of St. Columbkille Parish School for their commitment to excellence.

RECOGNIZING AND HONORING
MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENTS
AND COMMENDING IPALCO ENTERPRISES

HON. JULIA CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 26, 1999

Ms. CARSON. Mr. Speaker, the end of May brings us to Memorial Day, a time of national remembrance and honor for those who have passed on. Once known as Decoration Day, devoted to the decoration of the graves of veterans of service in the Civil War, in the years between its focus has changed.

I rise to pay a special tribute to a man of vision and the company he leads in Indianapolis, Indiana, for their work this year to bring the Memorial Day tradition back to our minds and our hearts in a new and important way.

Mr. Speaker, downtown Indianapolis is lined with stone memorials to the men and women in uniform who served our nation at war and at peace down through the years. Nearby, a memorial to the men of the USS *Indianapolis* marks their service. On Monument Circle, at the very heart of downtown Indianapolis, stands the Soldiers' and Sailors' Monument, standing nearly as tall as the Statue of Liberty, a multifaceted recognition of the contributions of Indiana's Soldiers, Sailors and Marines from the Civil War through the Spanish American War, the Boxer Rebellion and our other foreign military engagements up to World War I.

Across the street, facing the monument, is the corporate headquarters of IPALCO. Looking out upon that memorial are the offices of John Hodowal, President and Chairman of the Board.

For many years, Memorial Day has been associated with a world-famous sporting event—the Indianapolis 500. In our hometown, the arrival of the weekend of the race is celebrated with a major civic event, the 500 Festival Parade, through our city's downtown, passing block after block of those memorials.

Just last June, John Hodowal and his wife Caroline were reading an article in The New

York Times about America's winners of the Congressional Medal of Honor. They learned to their dismay that, since the Civil War, 3400 heroic Americans had earned the honor but that there was no place in America devoted to their remembrance. Then came the glimmer of an idea.

This year, thanks to the civic virtue of John Hodowal, and the civic enterprise of the corporation he leads, IPALCO Enterprises and the IPALCO Enterprises Foundation, something truly special is planned.

While IPALCO deserves praise for leading the 500 Festival this year, there is more. The Hodowals' idea has produced a wonderful new memorial in honor of those special American heroes who, for military service above and beyond the call of duty, were awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor down through the years of our history as a nation.

In recognition of the valor of these American heroes and to commemorate IPALCO for its generosity, I have sponsored a resolution honoring these champions.

This Memorial Day weekend in Indianapolis, nearly 100 of the 157 surviving Medal of Honor recipients will be honored as special guests for the dedication of the memorial and will serve as honorary Grand Marshals of the parade.

Our remembrance this day of those who earned our nation's highest military recognition by their heroism is a wondrous way to commemorate the service of all veterans.

Mr. Hodowal's idea, expressed in glass and sound and light and stone, transcends and transforms the traditional notion of such honors in our city. This monument, reminding and inspiring all who walk by the bank of the canal in Military Park, is an important piece, a central place, for the eternal honor these heroes are due.

For Mr. Hodowal, and for IPALCO Enterprises, this day is yours, as well. I am prouder than words can express to say that I know you. For this gift to the city and to the nation, for your civic service above and beyond the call, I salute you.

DON'T ABANDON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

HON. MAJOR R. OWENS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 26, 1999

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, Washington is bloated with rhetoric about education reform. But when we examine the actual programs and projects being proposed there is a tremendous shortfall between the giant needs and the tiny proposed solutions. Our nation's children are being denied adequate Opportunities-to-Learn. The opportunity to learn begins with a safe, conducive school building. But the federal government is spending almost nothing to improve the education infrastructure of school systems across the nation. We neglect and abandon school buildings we send a highly visible signal to our children and their parents. The message is that Congressmembers only want to play word games about education. The situation is serious, however, and requires a significant ap-

propriation of dollars. For a mere 417 dollars per student per year we can turn the current downward trend upward. If we do less than this minimal effort we are stumbling into a process where our cities will be doomed to paralysis and deadly shrinkage. The following RAP poem sums up the looming possible fate of our neglected cities. Also, attached is a Dear Colleague letter requesting co-sponsorship of H.R. 1820, an amendment to the Elementary and Secondary Schools Assistance Act. H.R. 1820 provides adequate direct federal appropriations for school construction, modernization, repair, technology, security and renovation.

URBAN CLEANSING

Forget all Godly rules
Go strip them of their schools
Leave neighborhoods naked
Ethnic cleansing is now banned
But urban shrinkage is still planned
Budgets will be raped
Streets left uncertain
Cops mandated to act real mean
Forget all Godly rules
Don't pay for education tools
Go strip them of their schools
Ethnic cleansing is now banned
But urban shrinkage is still planned.

MAY 26, 1999.

IN THE YEAR 2000 WE LAUNCH THE MARCH TOWARD A NEW CYBERCIVILIZATION—WE ARE SPENDING 218 BILLION DOLLARS ON HIGHWAYS AND ROADS IN SIX YEARS

LET US INVEST HALF THIS AMOUNT—110 BILLION—IN FIVE YEARS TO BUILD, REPAIR AND MODERNIZE SCHOOLS

DEAR COLLEAGUE: Please join me as a co-sponsor for H.R. 1820, an amendment to the Elementary and Secondary Education Assistance Act which mandates a worthy federal investment in education for the children of America. Public opinion polls consistently show that our voters consider Federal Aid to Education as the nation's number one priority. We must now move beyond paltry pilot projects in our response to this long-term public outcry.

H.R. 1820 commits the Federal government to make the contribution most suitable to its role. Through direct appropriations we must make capital investments in the school infrastructures. Offer leadership in the building of schools and then leave the details of the day to day operations to local and state authorities.

H.R. 1820 proposes to help all schools by authorizing a per capita (on the basis of school age children) distribution of the allocations for the purposes of modernization, security, repair, technology and renovations as well as new school construction.

H.R. 1820 deserves national priority consideration for the following reasons:

The best protection for Social Security is an educated work force able to qualify for hi-tech jobs and steadily pay dollars into the Social Security trust fund.

The effective performance of our military in action utilizing hi-tech weaponry requires an educated pool of recruits.

The U.S. economy will continue to be the pace setter for the globe only if we maintain a steady flow of qualified brainpower and updated know-how at all performance levels—theoretical, scientific, technical and mechanical.

Invest in education and all other national goals become reachable.

Sincerely,

MAJOR R. OWENS,
Member of Congress.